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9-21-48



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release SEPTEMBER 22, 1948.

#### CRIPPLED CHILDREN ENJOY VACATIONS ON PARKER RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Federal wildlife conservation and the care of youthful polio victims went hand in hand for the second consecutive summer at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Massachusetts.

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that the Refuge played host this year to 118 crippled polio victims, aged 6 to 16. Residents of Essex, Suffolk, and Middlesex Counties, Mass., the children enjoyed 18-day vacations — basking in the sunshine, playing on the hot sands, and bathing in the Atlantic Ocean. The salt water's buoyancy is particularly valuable in the physical exercise programs designed for infantile paralysis victims. Expenses for the vacations were paid by local county chapters of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

In 1947, the Essex County Chapter secured permission from the Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a convalescent camp for polio victims on the Plum Island area in the Parker River Refuge. Located on the seashore, the area provided 114 crippled children with two-week vacations in its first year as a polio camp.

The children were accommodated in former Coast Guard barracks built on the Refuge. A new dormitory was built this year from funds raised in neighboring communities.

Established in December 1942, the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge provides resting grounds for ducks, geese, water and marsh birds, shorebirds, and swallows. The area was selected by the Federal Government as low-cost land having little value for economic use, and is being developed for the conservation of the Atlantic Coast's migratory waterfowl.

It is now an essential link in the chain of breeding, resting, and wintering refuges for migratory waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway. To determine the needs for managing waterfowl and woodcock throughout the wooded region of New England, the Fish and Wildlife Service also set up a field study station on the Refuge. Watson E. Beed, Newburyport, Mass., is the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge's manager.

Development of a polio camp occupying limited area adjacent to the ocean offers no disturbance to the Refuge's regular wildlife management activities, the Service's Branch of Wildlife Refuges explains.

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